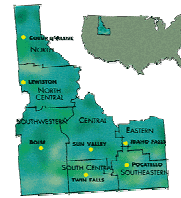


# ***SOUTHEAST IDAHO***



## ***SPOTTER NEWS***

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POCATELLO/IDAHO FALLS SPRING 2004**

### **Editors' Notes**

Hi Everyone! 2004 has been very busy and shows no signs of slowing down. Your NWS team has been doing a lot of community outreach over the past few months and you will learn about some of what we have been doing in this issue.

Summer is quickly approaching and we are continuously watching for thunderstorms and severe weather. As always...we need your help! If you spot any severe weather, please notify us toll free at: 1-800-877-1937.

If you would like to schedule a tour, please write or call anytime. Thanks.

Ken Simosko  
C/o Spotter News  
1945 Beechcraft Ave.  
Pocatello, ID 83204  
208-233-0834

e-mail:  
Ken.Simosko@noaa.gov

Sunny & Warm Days  
Ahead!

### **Weather Spotter Of the Quarter**

***Our weather spotter of the quarter is Steve Kunz***



**Steve Kunz** from Bern/Bear Lake County is our weather spotter of the quarter. His unselfish and unrelenting service of 30 years in weather observing and weather record keeping for the communities of Bern and Montpelier and to the National Weather Service makes him our highly distinguished weather spotter of the quarter. Steve is unique in that he volunteers his time performing a dual role in reporting weather...both to the Pocatello National Weather Service and to the Salt Lake City Weather Service Office along with all the radio and television stations in each city. Steve is a retired schoolteacher who taught Electronics and Mathematics for 33 years and continues to keep active by taking care of 21 different translators ranging from FM radio stations to TV stations. He has farmed his entire life and also raises honeybees. Weather and being the "Jack of All Trades" is a family tradition. His son Todd, works at KIFI-TV 8 in Idaho Falls and has done it all...from weathercasting to news anchoring and reporting. Todd is the 5PM news anchor and the host of Newline. Words of appreciation and how thankful we are to have Steve as a true and dedicated professional will never be enough! Congratulations Steve and we hope to visit with you soon.

### **On The Weather Menu Inside...**

NKA Outreach Tour  
Spring Trade Fair  
Hydrologist Sherrie Hebert  
Water Awareness Festival  
Flying Companion Seminar  
Local School Talk Presented  
Severe Weather Quiz

# **SOUTHEAST IDAHO SPOTTER NEWS**

National Weather Service Pocatello/Idaho Falls

## **NKA Outreach Tour**

NOAA's National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Pocatello, Idaho hosted a special tour on March 10, 2004 in cooperation with Idaho State University's New Knowledge Adventures (NKA) group. Thirty-nine members of the local NKA were provided a 2-hour tour that involved seeing the forecast process from AWIPS (Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System), seeing data observation platforms and HMT (Hydrometeorological Technician) quality control, NOAA Weather Radio operations and seeing how data is collected and made into forecasts then displayed on the Internet. The Digital Services program was highlighted throughout the tour with discussions on Doppler Weather Radar, Satellite, the Climate Prediction Center (CPC), the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction System and the National Digital Forecast Database. The group was very inquisitive from raising questions about our drought conditions, to the spring and summer seasonal outlook, how we name hurricanes and how we communicate with other federal agencies. Brochures and various information packets were provided to the NKA visitors highlighting our Web services and weather safety. WFO Pocatello's Administrative Assistant and Diversity Program Manager Donna Mills, coordinated the tour while Gary Wicklund (Hydrometeorological Technician, HMT), Bill Snyder (Information Technology Officer, ITO), Dean Hazen (Science and Operations Officer, SOO) and Vernon Preston (Warning Coordination Meteorologist, WCM) provided the expertise behind the tour presentations.

NKA is affiliated with the Elder Hostel Network and is for students who are 50 years or older. The "Elder Hostel philosophy" endorses the fact that turning 50 is just another beginning, that it is time to learn for the joy of learning, to discover new ways of enriching life and providing opportunities to exchange ideas, visit different places and make new friends. Membership ranges from farmers and ranchers, to doctors, lawyers and teachers. Sometimes college credits are provided to those who participate depending on the training received.

### **Science and Operations Officer Dean Hazen talks with NKA member**





# SOUTHEAST IDAHO SPOTTER NEWS

National Weather Service Pocatello/Idaho Falls

## Spring Trade Fair

Vernon Preston, WCM (Warning Coordination Meteorologist) coordinated the Spring Trade Fair March 25-27 at the Idaho State University Holt Arena in Pocatello where over 35,000 people attended. Meteorologists Nathan Heinert, Greg Kaiser, Jack Messick and Rick Winther assisted.

The National Weather Service at Pocatello teamed up with the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) to sponsor a booth to provide all-hazards safety information to our eastern Idaho community. Three main themes were presented this year. From the NWS we focused on the digital services available using the slogan, "Digital Services – Graphical Solutions – A New Era in Choice." We also used signs like Innovative and User Driven. The display showed the wide variety of digital products available. Our second display was on weather, water, and climate of the Lewis and Clark Expedition highlighting their journey, especially in Idaho. The third display discussed the US Citizen Corps Teams (CERT) of which NWS Pocatello is participating. We also teamed with the Caribou County Emergency Management, which provided a free drawing for a NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio.



# **SOUTHEAST IDAHO SPOTTER NEWS**

National Weather Service Pocatello/Idaho Falls

## **Hydrologist Sherrie Hebert On The Airwaves**

WFO Pocatello Service Hydrologist Sherrie Hebert recently provided valuable drought and water information on the Trish and Hallie Political and Information Talk Show broadcast on KWIK-AM and KID-AM. This program reaches 12 of the 17 counties served by WFO Pocatello. Sherrie's main themes were discussing the impacts of the five-year drought, current snowpack trends, 2004 river flow forecasts and the upcoming seasonal outlooks. Sherrie handled several phone calls from the public and led listeners on viewing and using the new Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services on the WFO Pocatello Internet Homepage. This being her first radio interview, she did an excellent job and has been invited back to the Trish and Hallie Show to provide updates on the Hydro program.

**Talk show host Hallie Stone writes down crucial river flow information as WFO Pocatello Service Hydrologist Sherrie Hebert reveals the 2004 Forecasts.**





# **SOUTHEAST IDAHO SPOTTER NEWS**

National Weather Service Pocatello/Idaho Falls

## **Water Awareness Festival**

Sherrie Hebert was also recently caught playing in the sand at the 11th annual Water Awareness Festival at Tautphaus Park in Idaho Falls, Idaho as part of the Idaho Water Awareness Week educational program.

Sherrie and over 100 sixth graders experienced first-hand the causes and dangers of flooding and flash flooding. Together, they repeatedly zoned the sandbox town of Waterville and then inundated it with spring snowmelt flooding and summer flash flooding. The students learned the purpose of the NWS, in particular with respect to flooding, what watches and warnings are, what to do when watches and warnings are issued and good planning habits when living near rivers and lakes.

The purpose of the festival is to provide water-related activities in one central location designed to help children appreciate Idaho's greatest treasure. About 500-600 students and their teachers apply to participate in the Idaho Falls festival each year, with over 16,000 statewide. Other participating agencies included the Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Geological Survey, Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Falls Zoo and Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory.

**Sherrie and the students discuss the impacts of flooding and safe building locations in Waterville.**



# **SOUTHEAST IDAHO SPOTTER NEWS**

National Weather Service Pocatello/Idaho Falls

## **Flying Companion Seminar Held in Idaho Falls**

Meteorologist Ken Simosko recently spoke to the Eastern Idaho Ninety-Nines Women's Pilots Association in Idaho Falls. Ken covered how the National Weather Service supports the Aviation community by issuing TAF's (Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts) and TWEB's (Transcribed Weather Broadcast Services) every 6 hours around the clock year round with an aviation meteorologist always on staff. In addition, Ken explained the basics on recognizing severe weather both in the air and on the ground and what weather situations you should avoid altogether.

The Ninety-Nines is an organization of licensed women pilots from 33 countries. The majority of its 6500 members live in the United States. The organization is comprised of members that fly for airlines, fly for fun, fly in the military, fly in air races, instruct, fly aerobatics in air shows and even fly as captain of the space shuttle.

The Ninety-Nines is an international organization and once each year there is an international meeting. The Group is broken down into Sections and then individual chapters. Here in Idaho we belong to the Idaho Chapter in the Northwest Section.

The purpose of the Ninety-Nines is primarily education and philanthropic. The Ninety-Nines award many scholarships to women to advance their aviation careers, and put on many educational programs each year. They also participate in air races, "air-marking" airports which means painting the airport name on runways or possibly a compass at the airport. Many people wonder where the name Ninety-Nines came from. In 1929 following the first all women's transcontinental air race, a group of women decided to invite all 117 American female licensed pilots to support the advancement of aviation. 99 women responded and the group was named for the 99 charter members.

The headquarters of the Ninety-Nines is located in Oklahoma City. It houses a fabulous research library of material on women in aviation that is used by historians, authors, and curators. This coming June is the grand opening of the museum located at the headquarters building so if you get a chance to visit Oklahoma City, make sure to stop by and visit the museum.

**Joy McDonald (Ninety-Nines Organizer) and Ken Simosko**





# **SOUTHEAST IDAHO SPOTTER NEWS**

National Weather Service Pocatello/Idaho Falls

## **Meteorologist Mike Huston Goes To School**

Lead Meteorologist Mike Huston recently went to Stewart Elementary in Shelley where he talked to six 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes totaling 160 students. Mike presented a 15-minute video on severe weather and then gave a 30-minute presentation covering tornadoes, flash floods, and lightning safety, which was interspersed with some hands on experiments. The experiments consisted of creating a cloud-in-a-bottle, exploring how static charge builds up in clouds by using balloons and the children's hair, and showed how precipitation rates affect the occurrence of flash floods by using sponges and spray bottles.

The presentation was well received by the students and teachers and Mike received several compliments from the different groups of teachers. They wanted to know if he could come back next year and Mike is already looking forward to doing it.

**Meteorologist Mike Huston spends time with a youngster who is having the time of his life as he learns how static electricity works with his hair standing straight up.**



# SOUTHEAST IDAHO SPOTTER NEWS

National Weather Service Pocatello/Idaho Falls

**Weather Quiz:** Time to test your weather knowledge on **Severe Weather**...(Answers on back)



1. Another name for a thunderstorm cloud is a:
  - a. Cumulonimbus Cloud
  - b. Cumulus cloud
  - c. Alto-Cumulus Castellanus Cloud
  - d. Cirrus Cloud
2. The #1 cause of deaths associated with thunderstorms is:
  - a. Hail
  - b. Tornadoes
  - c. Flash Flooding
  - d. Lightning
3. True or False...Tornadoes have occurred in all 50 states.
4. Lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and may occur as far as \_\_\_\_ miles away from any rainfall.
  - a. 5
  - b. 10
  - c. 25
5. Six inches of fast-moving water can knock you off your feet; a depth of \_\_\_\_ feet will cause most vehicles to float.
  - a. 2
  - b. 5
  - c. 10
6. Destructive winds, which can cause damage equivalent to a strong tornado and can be extremely dangerous while flying an airplane is/are known as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Straight-line winds
  - b. Downburst
  - c. Dry Microburst
  - d. All Of The Above
7. The state with the most thunderstorm days annually (over 70 days per year) is: \*A thunderstorm day is a day with at least one reported thunderstorm...it does not tell you how many thunderstorms actually occur during a day.
  - a. Oklahoma
  - b. Kansas
  - c. Florida
8. On an annual basis, the majority of tornadoes occur over northern \_\_\_\_\_ and southern \_\_\_\_\_, which is right in the middle of Tornado Alley.
  - a. Texas/Oklahoma
  - b. Kansas/Nebraska
  - c. Missouri/Iowa
9. & 10. On February \_\_\_\_ 2000, a cold front pushed through east Idaho during the afternoon creating a line of thunderstorms which spawned \_\_\_\_ tornadoes.
  - a. 12<sup>th</sup>, 4
  - b. 12<sup>th</sup>, 5
  - c. 14<sup>th</sup>, 4
  - d. 14<sup>th</sup>, 5

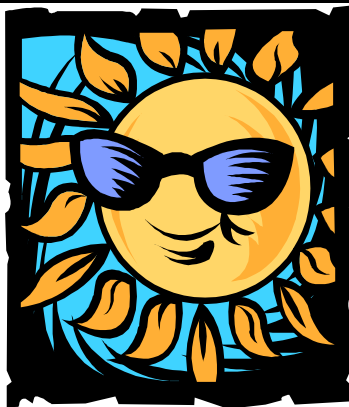
# SOUTHEAST IDAHO SPOTTER NEWS



**Answers to the Severe Weather Quiz:**

1. **A.** Popularly referred to just as a “CB”, the Cumulonimbus Cloud is a thunderstorm cloud. A CB begins as a Cumulus cloud in its initial stages but then develops characteristics that cause it to become a CB. An Alto-Cumulus Castellanus Cloud, also known and pronounced as “ACCAS”, is usually seen in the morning and indicates an unstable atmosphere, which could lead to thunderstorm activity later in the afternoon. A Cirrus cloud is non-threatening and is the highest category of all clouds and is made up entirely of ice crystals.
- 
2. **C.** Flash Flooding has replaced lightning as the #1 cause of deaths associated with thunderstorms with more than 140 fatalities per year. Although roughly 80 of these deaths can be avoided as they are the result of motorists trying to drive through water that is too deep and moving too fast. Lightning causes an average of 80 deaths and 300 injuries per year.
- 
3. **TRUE.** A tornado has occurred in every state, although Alaska has the fewest averaging just 3 tornadoes in the last 50 years while Texas has the most averaging 137 per year.
- 
4. **B.** 10 miles away. Don’t be fooled that if it is not raining and it seems the lightning strike is too far away that there is no danger. The truth is that lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall. The best place to see this is here in the west where thunderstorms sometimes produce very little rain.
- 
5. **A.** Just 2 feet of fast moving water will cause vehicles to float...another reason not to drive through moving water no matter how deep you think it might be.
- 
6. **D.** All of the Above. Straight-line winds are responsible for most thunderstorm wind damage. Winds can exceed 100 mph. One type of straight-line wind is the downburst which is a small area of rapidly descending air beneath a thunderstorm. A dry microburst is a downburst that occurs with little or no rain but has destructive winds.
- 
7. **C.** Florida. Daytona Beach, Florida has the most thunderstorm days per year...over 90. Just because you have more Thunderstorm Days per year doesn’t mean you get more tornadoes.
- 
8. **A.** Texas/Oklahoma. Tornadoes occur on all continents of the world except Antarctica, with the Great Plains of the United States accounting for 70% of the total number. The area known as "tornado alley" has become a haven for storm chasers and a killing field for deadly twisters. It stretches up through the central United States through Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, and other central states.
- 
9. & 10. **D.** 14<sup>th</sup>, 5. On February 14, 2000 there were 5 Tornadoes. After surveying the damage, two of the five tornadoes were rated as an F0 and the other three were F1. F0 on the Fujita scale are winds under 72mph with light damage and F1 tornadoes have winds between 73 and 112mph with moderate damage.

**Next Spotter Newsletter...August 2004!**



***Weather Forecast Office  
National Weather Service  
1945 Beechcraft Ave.  
Pocatello, Idaho 83204***